Immigration – 1918

NEGROES LEAD AS IMMIGRANTS; POPULATION CUT

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Fewer Europeans Coming to America than Are Going Back.

BY HENRY M. HYDE.

It would be safe to bet a thousand to one that no one could guess in fifty attempts what race of people is now furnishing the greatest number of immigrants to the United States.

It would be almost as safe a wager that no uninformed person could guess within 10,000 the total addition to the population of the country by immigration during, say, the four months ending Nov. 1, 1917.

The latest report of the immigration bureau covers those four months. It shows that from July 1 to Nov. 1 of last year the total number of aliens admitted to the United States was 70,000. But during the same period aliens departed to the number of 64,000. The net gain in population from this source was only 6,000.

Gain Under 1,500.

Even that does not fairly show the situation. In the month of November alone 4,500 more aliens left the United States than entered it. If the figures for the five months ending Dec. 1 are considered the total gain in population from immigration was less than 1,500. When December figures are available it is likely that the first six months of the fiscal year will show a net loss.

The sudden drop, amounting to a complete stoppage of immigration, is emphasized by the fact that in the year ending with June 30, 1917, there were 216,000 more aliens arriving than departing. In May, the month after the Untied States entered the war, the arrivals dropped to 10,000, less than half the record of the preceding month.

Blacks Predominate.

But more startling—if not more important—is the fact that half of all the surplus aliens arriving in the country from June to November of last year were black men from Africa. The report shows that 3,000 more Africans (black) came into the United States than left it during the same period.

Not since the African slave trade was stopped did one believe there was any considerable number of Negroes coming from the dark continent. How do they get to the United States during the war, what do they do in the United States, where are they living?

Next to the Africans in number among the immigrants were the Scandinavians, coming from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. During the four months they added 2,700 to our population. The Mexicans were third, numbering slightly over 2,000.

Answer Call of Blood.

On the other hand, we have lost during the first four months mentioned no less than 3,000 Italians. And in November, after the great German drive on Austria was under way, 2,900 more Italians went back to fight for their native land. Also the English answered the call of the blood. From July to Nov. 1 more than 10,000 went back to "Blighty" from the States, while in November alone the number returning was 800 more than those who arrived.

The Russian revolution was plainly the magnet which not only stopped immigration from that vast country but also called 2,500 native born Russians back to Europe.

Strangely enough, since the United States entered the war with Germany the immigration of Germans has not been entirely shut off. From June to November no less than 1,154 German alien enemies were admitted, while 504 left the country.

Africans Lead in Recent Immigration to United States

The South Western Advocate
Feb. 28, 1918.

The increase in the population of the United States by foreign immigration since this country's entrance into the war has been very small. The latest published report of the immigration bureau covers the period from July 1 to November 1, 1917, and shows that the total number of aliens admitted to the United States was 70,000. But during that period aliens departed to the number of 64,000, rendering a net gain in population from this source of only 6,000. In the month of November, however, 4,500 more aliens left the United States than entered it. If the figures for the five months ending December 1 are considered the total gain in population from immigration was less than 1,500. But what some press commentators regard "more startling—if not more important—is the fact that half of the surplus aliens arriving in the country from June to November of last year were black men from Africa." The rep shows that 3,000 more Africans (black) ca into the United States than left it. Next t the Africans in number among the immigrants were the Scandinavians, coming from Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The Mexicans were third, numbering slightly over 2,000.